



May 3, 2004

Ms. Teresa B. Bingham
Associate Director, X-50
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, XW, Room 6401
Washington, D.C. 20590

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
HUMSBOLDT
2004 MAY 11 P 3:11

Ref: Docket OST-2004-17343-50

correspondence

**RE: SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

Dear Ms. Bingham:

I am writing to convey the strong support of the Board of Directors of the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce for the above referenced grant application. The Chamber has long supported passenger and cargo air service improvements at the Eureka/Arcata Airport. The current, collaborative effort aimed at expanding existing schedules to include a direct, non-stop flight to Los Angeles is fully consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the Chamber's Regional Legislative Agenda. Accordingly, please accept this letter as an expression of the Chamber's support for the grant application and its efforts to work jointly with the City of Redding and Horizon Air toward securing the necessary funding to move this project forward.

There is no question that such improvements are critically important to the health and growth of the north coast business community. Area businesses have been adversely affected by a competitive disadvantage due to the costs and reliability of local air service. Given the unique transportation challenges which confront this region, the contemplated improvements will provide a significant boost to our ongoing economic development efforts.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

J Warren Hockaday
Executive Director

cc: Jacquelyn Hulsey, Airport Manager - Humboldt
The Honorable Mike Thompson, Member of Congress - 1st District
Rod Dinger, Airport Manager- Redding